(e) if so, whether any investigation has been made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (e) 'Police and public order' being State subjects, the matters concerning private security agencies come in the jurisdiction of State Governments. Therefore, no data is maintained of such agencies by the Central Government. However, to regulate the functioning of the private security agncies, Central Government has enacted a law namely "The Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act, 2005". In this Act, it is mandatory to obtain a licence from the appropriate authority of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to run such an agency. One year's time has been given to the existing security agencies to obtain licence from the appropriate authority. Only after such a system is put in place, the actual number of private security agencies will be known to the designated authority in the States/Union Territories. The above Act provides the necessary legal framework to oversee the functioning of these private security agencies including the payment of wages/salaries of the security guards etc.

Restoration of peace in J&K

1019. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to initiate talks with separate organizations of Jammu and Kashmir to help restore peace in the militancy hit State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government also agree that there is an urgent need to work for stopping killings by restoring peace in Jammu and Kashmir;

(d) if so, whether any measures have been chalked out to see how violence cculd end; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The Government is committed to carry forward a dialogue with all groups, which eschew the path of violence.

(c) to (e) Yes Sir. The Government have been following a multi-pronged approach in dealing with terrorist violence and bringing in peace in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The major prongs of the strategy, *inter-alia*, including (i) strengthening border management and pro-active action against terrorists within J&K (ii) accelerating economic development and (iii) remaining open to pursue a dialogue with all groups and different shades of opinion in the State on a sustained basis in consultation with the democratically elected State Government.

Identity cards for persons living in border areas

1020. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to issue identity cards to people living in border areas to ascertain their identities;

(b) whether any State Government of the NER has requested the Government to consider the issue of such photo identity cards as a national scheme; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The Government proposes to issue Multipurpose National Identity Cards to the citizens of the country. However, keeping in view the complexities involved, presently only a Pilot Project has been undertaken on an experimental basis in a few selected sub-districts of 12 States and one Union Territory. The Government propose to implement the scheme in the entire country after the results of the Pilot Project are available, which is expected to be completed shortly.

(b) and (c) The State Governments of Assam and Meghalaya had requested for extension of the pilot scheme to the entire State. Since the pilot scheme had already commenced, it was not possible to include new areas at that juncture. The State Governments were accordingly informed.

Multi-purpose National Identity Cards

1021. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: